

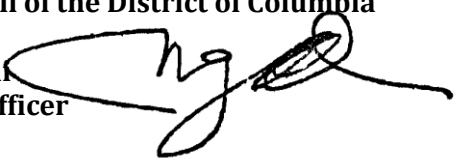
Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



**Natwar M. Gandhi**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Natwar M. Gandhi   
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** July 1, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “Bicycle Safety Amendment Act of 2013”

**REFERENCE:** Bill 20-140, Draft Committee Print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on June 10, 2013

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the proposed FY 2014 through FY 2017 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill proposes a number of changes that impact bicycling in the District. First, the bill allows bicyclists to cross signalized intersections with the pedestrian signals, including leading pedestrian intervals.<sup>1</sup> Bicyclists will also be able to use their voices as a warning signal in place of a bell or mechanical device in order to signal his or her presence if needed.<sup>2</sup>

Second, the bill requires any applicant for a public space permit to treat any blockages of sidewalks or bicycle lanes similar to those of a closure of a lane of vehicular traffic and to provide a safe accommodation for bicyclists and pedestrians. The permit applicant must also provide a traffic management plan with his or her application and receive approval before the permit is issued.

Lastly, the bill imposes driver’s record points and fines for motor vehicle infractions against bicycle operators. If a motor vehicle operator fails to yield the right-of-way to a bicyclist, he or she will receive 3 points on his or her driving record and a \$75 fine. The penalty for colliding with a bicyclist is 6 points and a \$500 fine. Additionally, driver’s license knowledge tests will require motorists to

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<sup>1</sup> Leading pedestrian intervals are signals that allow pedestrians an advance opportunity to cross an intersection before motor vehicles are allowed to proceed.

<sup>2</sup> The warning noise must be heard at least one hundred feet away.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

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show their understanding of the importance of sharing the District's roadways with pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the proposed FY 2014 through FY 2017 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The District Department of Transportation can implement any changes to the public space permitting process with existing resources. The Department of Motor Vehicles can also implement the changes to the points system, fines, and knowledge test with existing resources.